



Needs Assessment Committee

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, November 30, 2006

**Shelby County Administration Building
Suite 850 Conference Room**

Committee members present:

Scott Fleming, Chairman
Nick Clark, Vice-Chairman
Cato Johnson, Vice-Chairman
Nisha Powers, Secretary

Dr. Thomas Glass
Aubrey Howard
Jay Weatherington

Committee members absent:

Commissioner David Lillard
Commissioner Deidre Malone
David Pickler, Chairman SCS Board
Sara Lewis, President MCS

Non-Voting Members Present:

Grace Hutchinson
Terry Langlois

Others Present:

Carolyn Staskiewicz, DeJong
Scott Leopold, DeJong
Commissioner Mike Ritz
Louise Mercurio
Ethele Hillard
Michael Goar
Maura Sullivan
Paula Lewis

Lindsay Melvin
Alfred Hall
Richard Holden
Councilman Tom Marshall
Susan Roakes
Dr. Carol Johnson
Dr. Bobby Webb
Deni Hirsch

Chairman Scott Fleming called the meeting to order at 8:45 a.m.

1. Old Business – Approval of minutes September 28, 2006 meeting

Chairman Fleming asked if there were any questions regarding the minutes of the last meeting and there were none.

Motion: Motion was made by Jay Weatherington to approve minutes of last meeting.
Second by Cato Johnson.

Action: Motion was approved unanimously with no discussion.

2. DeJong School Capital Needs Report

Chairman Fleming introduced Carolyn Staskiewicz and asked her to address the Committee.

Ms. Staskiewicz stated that the County Commission has approved the contract with DeJong and they are now in the data collection stage. They will take all the students and do enrollment projections – how many schools and how many students to provide for. She will bring back the data that's been collected at the next meeting. Ms. Staskiewicz will bring back preliminary information with a draft report available in February. There were no further questions of Ms. Staskiewicz.

3. Update on Schools Capital

The County Schools had no report. Michael Goar gave a report from City Schools on where the city is at this point. They are currently putting together their 5 year facility plan and their board is scheduled to meet today to discuss. They are also putting together a package for deferred maintenance and will be discussing immediate needs such as windows, playgrounds, HVAC, paving etc. Also plan to discuss Countrywood and Berryhill annexations.

Dr. Johnson said that some of the decisions they will ask their board to make will be geared towards academics and how to increase the graduation rate.

Nick Clark asked if it is possible to determine what schools may end up being closed while they are doing the deferred maintenance plan.

Mr. Goar said that's exactly what they are looking at to avoid serious maintenance at those schools if they are going to be closed.

Dr. Johnson added that they did close Dunn elementary a couple of years ago and are now leasing it to one of the charter schools.

4. Annexation Update

Terry Langlois updated the Committee regarding Bridgewater and the S.E. Extended area. He stated that they both have been to the City Council for 2nd readings. At Committee level, S.E. Extended was delayed until 12/31/07. The full Council held hearings for both and decided to delay Bridgewater also until 12/31/07. This was done mainly so that police services would be able to cover these areas sufficiently. Planning & Development was asked to incorporate the date changes and route through the city process for review. Next week the City Council will have another opportunity for review. The Ordinances will not be effective until 30 days after passage, which would be the end of January, 2007.

Mr. Goar stated that there would be 2542 students coming in from Chimneyrock. There are already 17 portables currently at Chimneyrock – how will the City accommodate

this? We have no added capacity in that area and will be greatly challenged to accommodate these students.

Dr. Johnson stated that the City School board has given her the authorization to work with the County School board for some arrangement with the County schools. Shelby County School board has not had an opportunity to discuss this yet but she stated that we need to maintain as much continuity as possible for the students and the parents. We need to find a resolution that is acceptable to the parents. Both school boards need to work out an annexation transition plan.

Dr. Webb stated that his board will want long term solutions without band aiding the situation. This should have been the number one priority when deciding annexation.

Mr. Clark asked what is the overall increase in the number of students from this year to next.

Louise Mercuro stated that the increase is not that much – maybe 200 or so.

Mr. Clark agreed that a Master Plan between the two school boards seems to be a good plan.

Councilman Marshall stated that the City Council has always been admonished not to consider school in annexation.

Deni Hirsch stated that one issue she has is that these parents who will be annexed don't have a voice on their school board when annexed. They were not allowed to vote in or vote out anyone on the board and that is an issue.

Chairman Fleming stated that it seems that both School Boards are going to work together to come up with an annexation transition master plan. The Needs Assessment Committee is here to help if needed.

5. Update on status of Kate Bond Property

Grace Hutchinson stated that the State has said that they do not have a stake in the transfer of this property. The Shelby County Conservation Board has approved giving this land to the School Board and this should be done possibly by next month.

6. Revised Shelby County Schools Capital Plan

Richard Holden advised the Committee that they plan to roll two projects from one year to the next. The school they are proceeding with is the middle school in the NE Bartlett area, they are postponing the K-8 in the southeast by a year.

Motion: Mr. Clark made a motion to receive and file this change in the SCS 5 year CIP plan. Second by Cato Johnson.

Dr. Johnson stated that this change could raise concerns. The initial agreement was to split \$100,000,000 50/50 which would deviate from the ADA to accommodate the County to build a high school in the Cordova area. This would be constructed in an

annexation reserve area and ultimately become a City school. By deferring that construction this raises questions about the original agreement.

Dr. Webb stated that this project they are talking about does not use their share of the \$100,000,000. This is other money. This change in the Capital Plan just moves back the time frame for the high school.

Mr. Howard asked how soon will DeJong have an overall picture for the Committee to look at and Ms. Staskiewicz stated they hope to have a draft by mid February. Chairman Fleming stated that we could have a called meeting if necessary.

Mr. Weatherington called for the question.

Action: Committed voted unanimously to accept the change to the County's Capital Plan.

Chairman Fleming asked everyone how the construction prices are right now. Mr. Holden stated that they prices are up significantly from the last square footage review.

Chairman Fleming asked that a report be given to the Committee at the next meeting regarding prices.

Mr. Clark stated that the increase in construction costs over a period of time could have an impact on the timing with regard to the funding of the project.

Motion: Motion to adjourn by Mr. Cato Johnson, second by Mr. Weatherington.

Action: Motion approved unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 9:40 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Nisha Powers, Secretary

Date

NP/pl